Vol. IV. Numb. 16.

THE OBSERVATOR.

Of the Behaviour of the Tacking-Clergy *at* Elections. *Remarks thereon. Some Advice to them. The* Review *further Examined.*

From **Wednesday** May the 23d, to **Saturday** May the 26th, 1705.

Country-m. MAster *Obſervator*, pray, Sir, now let Us hear a little of the *Behaviour* of the *Clergy* at the *Elections*; they are the common Talk of our Country.

Obſ. So they are of the Kingdom. But here I muſt perſwade you, and every Body elſe, to believe, *When I make Reflections on the* Clergy, *that I do it not in General Terms*; for we have, bleſſed be God, many *Worthy Divines* in *England*, that are ſincere Friends to Her Majeſties Perſon and Government, to the Liberties of *England*, and the *Hannover* Succeſſion. But many of the *Inferiour Clergy* in the late *Elections*, have Behaved themſelves ſo very ill in oppoſing Her Majeſties beſt Friends, which is ſo Barbarous a return of *Ingratitude* to Her Majeſty for Her *Bounty* to them in giving them Her *Tenths*, &c. and not only ſo, but in getting that *Charity* Eſtabliſh'd by *Act of Parliament*, That we cannot paſs over ſuch ill Uſage to the *Throne*, attended with ſuch *Deſigned Miſchiefs* to the *People*, in Silence. —— I'll Read you a Letter of their *Behaviour* at the *Election* in *Berks*.

SIR,

AT the late Election for Knights of the Shire for Berks, *at* Abingdon, *the Clergy, by Unanimous Agreement, did all that lay in their Power to throw out Mr.* Nevil, *a Gentleman againſt whom they have no other Exception, but* His Love to the Government, and that he was no *Tacker*. *Amongſt theſe Men, none was more Zealous than a late Arch-Deacon of this County, who rather than Pay the Tax to King* William, *ſuffer'd his Plate to be Seiz'd and Sold. This Man made a Speech in a Coffee-Houſe at the time of the Election, to cauſe a Mutiny: And of* 140 *Clergymen,* 119 *Voted ſingly againſt Mr.* Nevil, *who, notwithſtanding, carried it by a Conſiderable Majority. Sir* Humphry Foſter *loſt it by their Talking, tho' he keeps an over-grown Prieſt in his Houſe, and hath at all times had his Cellar and Table at their Command. All I ſhall Remark is this, It is the Uſual Return they make their Benefactors*, I am, Sir,

Abingdon, *May* 13. 1705. Yours, *&c.*

It ſeems the particular Fate of *Berkſhire*, to be peſter'd with Troubleſome and Ungrateful *Clergymen*, one of which, in Requital to his Patron for beſtowing on him a Conſiderable Living, was an Inſtrument of Stealing away his only Child and Daughter.

I have an Account from *Wallingford* in that County, That when the People of the Town intended to receive Mr. *Nevil*, with all imaginable Tokens of Love and Reſpect, that *Squintifego*, the Ill-Natur'd Pariſh Prieſt, and his Clark Abſented themſelves from the Town, and carried away the Keys of the Church, ſo that when Mr. *Nevil* and his Attendance entred the Town, the *Mayor* was forc'd to ſet up Ladders to the *Church Windows*, and by that means come at the *Bells*.

I don't recite theſe things to create *Animoſities* among Parties; but to ſhow you the Ring-Leaders of our *Inteſtine Diviſions*, hoping that theſe things being known, the Wiſdom of the Nation may find out ſome Expedients, and make ſome Proviſions againſt the like Practices in Times to come.

I know the Enemies of our Church may take Advantage by the Miſcarriages of thoſe that ſerve at Her Altars to Reflect upon Her; but Reflections of this Nature are but the Effects of *Malice* and *Envy*, the *Doctrines*, the *Conſtitution* of the Church is never the worſe, becauſe the *Levites* are ill Men; nor muſt we take the *Prieſts* to be other Men than our ſelves, but Subject to the ſame *Paſſions* and *Infirmities*, and if, as we ſay, *There is a Time for all Men to Sow their Wild Oats*, who can tell but the Clergy have made the Time of this Election theirs, and that from their ill Harveſt this Bout, they may deſiſt for the future, having found the Barrenneſs of their Attempt.

The firſt *Obſervator*, Sir *Roger L'Eſtrange* term'd himſelf the *Guide to the Inferiour Clergy*, he had an eaſie Poſt of it, he led the ſame way they now go, he Sail'd with the *Current*, and Row'd with a *Rapid Stream*. But ſhould I pretend to be their Guide at this Day, mine would be an *Herculean Labour*, I muſt pull againſt *Wind* and *Tide*, and ſhould find 'em very *Wreſty Creatures*, not eaſily led into the *Paths of Peace*, and the *Sure Road to the Nations Happineſs and Proſperity*.

I will never pretend to be their Guide, but, as a Lover of Mankind, I'll give 'em ſome Advice, and I aſſure the two Univerſities of *Oxford* and *Cambridge*, That I don't expect a Preſent of a Thouſand Guineas from each of 'em as they us'd to preſent Sir *Roger*; but I'll do it Frankly and Freely without Reward or Intereſt.

You can't tell, Gentlemen, but you are working your own Deſtruction, and bringing that Fate on your Heads, that the Induſtry of your Enemies could never accompliſh. If you would *Read* as well as *Praiſe Politicks*, you would find that many *Societies* and *Communities* of Men, by the heat of their *Paſſions*, have warp'd their *Conſtitutions*; and while they have been reaching after greater Power, the Ground they have ſtood on has ſlipt from under their Feet.

Who knows, Sirs, but your preſent Puſh againſt the *Queens* and the *Nations Intereſt*, may put the *Common Council* of the Kingdom upon an Enquiry into the *Legality of your Votes?* I have told you already of your Tenure, if you have *Freeholds*, Vote, it is your due; but if our Anceſtors have allow'd you the *Courteſie* of Voting, as you are

Parſons,

Kirtons, don't Imagine 'tis your *Right*. We never yet did Poll *Alms-Men*; and I can find no other Tenure for moſt of your Livings than *Almsdeed*. And if you'll abuſe *Courteſie*, it muſt be taken away. You may as well pretend, becauſe we allow you the *Courteſie*, or the Benefit of the Clergy to Pay nothing at a Tavern Reckoning, that it is your Right to Eat and Drink with whom you pleaſe at Free-Coſt.

Another thing, Gentlemen, let me recommend to your ſerious Conſideration, how much Ground the *Diſſenters* have got on you in this Election by their Unſpotted Loyalty to the Queen and Government; how cloſely they have followed the *Royal Dictates* from the Throne, and have endeavour'd that *Peace* and *Union* which Her Majeſty has ſo Opportunely and Earneſtly Recommended to all Her Loving Subjects?

I hope too, you are now convinc'd of the Falſehood of ſome Aſperſions I find in ſeveral of your Books caſt on one ſort of *Diſſenters*, I mean Her Majeſties *Peaceable Subjects*, the *Quakers*, you ſay they are Influenc'd by *Papiſts*, that there are *Jeſuites* among their Preachers, and ſay 100 other ill things of them. But by my Accounts from the Counties, at theſe Elections, they have behaved themſelves with ſuch an Unfeigned *Aſſent* and *Conſent* to Her Majeſties juſt Deſires of *Peace* and *Union*, they have ſo Vigorouſly Oppoſed ſuch as are the *Common Diſturbers* of our *Peace*, and have appear'd ſo Unanimouſly for the Queens *Intereſt*, and the *Liberties* of *England*, that we muſt needs allow 'em to be Men of that *Peace* and *Candour*, which they Profeſs themſelves to be, with an Additional Noble Character, *That they are true* Engliſhmen, and conſequently Enemies to *Popery* and *Arbitrary Government*.

Now, Gentlemen, do you think all this is not matter of Reflection, That the *Diſſenters* ſhould ſo Vigorouſly ſtand by the Queens Friends in their Elections, and that *you* ſhould ſo Vigorouſly Oppoſe 'em. That when the whole Nation are Crowding about the Throne with *Palms* in their Hands, as if Her Majeſty Sat there the *Goddeſs of Peace*, that you ſhould be *Diſſenters* from theſe vaſt Multitudes, theſe Infinite Numbers of *Peaceful Votaries*.

But to come yet cloſer to you in your Profeſſion, do you Serve at the Altar only as *Vulcans*, to *Blow up the Fire*; or as *Butchers*, to *Kill the Sacrifice*? Are you under the Old or New *Conſtitution* of *Prieſthood*? If you are the Embaſſadors of our Saviour, *Jeſus Chriſt*, he has ſent you with Meſſages of *Peace* to Mankind. He is the *GOD* of *Peace*; his *Doctrines* are the *Doctrines* of *Peace*; his *Miniſters* are the *Miniſters* of *Peace*; how come you then to be the *Sons of Thunder*, and to ſide with thoſe that are the *Invaders* of our *Eaſe*, and the *Diſturbers* of our *Peace*?

Honeſt *Country-man*, I ſhould proceed farther in this Diſcourſe, but I muſt break off to a more Unprofitable Subject. The *Cavils* of Authors one with another ſignifie as little to the *Publick*, as do ſome of their *Writings*: But ſhou'd the Author of the *Review* paſs without *Contradiction*, the *Reputation* of Authors muſt be handled by him as is our *Conſtitution*.

I ſhall paſs by his *Beau Billingſgate*, and come to the *Forgery* he ſpeaks of, the *Surmiz'd Untruths* he mentions. He ſays *He did not mean me*; nay, *I did not believe he meant me*; nay, that *I could not tell he meant me*. I ſaid I could not tell from what Paper he took that Quotation, and therefore muſt it be none of mine? Now I might know 'twas mine, and yet not know where it was; but 'tis *Lunar Logick* to conclude from my not knowing where the Quotation was, that therefore I never writ thoſe Words.

But now he'll be my Vindicator, and will produce his Quotation in a Quarto Pamphlet, in the Deſpute about *Standing-Armies*, in the time of King *William*; why does he not tell the World what that Quarto Pamphlet is? This is like Printing of *Affidavits* without the Juſtices Name, and then ſending People to Mr. *Skeys* to know who the Juſtices were.

But to ſhow you how fairly and above Board this *Lunar* Author does Act, I'll acquaint you That the Quarto Pamphlet he means, is call'd *The Seamans Opinion of a Standing-Army*, that it was Written by my ſelf, by the very Individual *John Tutchin* that Writes the *Obſervator*, and if any Body deſires to know the Truth hereof let 'em enquire of Mr. *John Darby*, a Printer in *Bartholomew-Cloſe*.

He ſays the *Man in the Moon* underſtands *Latin* as well as my ſelf, too: But if I don't underſtand it better than he, 'tis owing to the Negligence of my Parents, that they did not put me Prentice to a *Hoſier* to Learn the Purity of the *Latin* Tongue. Now we *Inferiour Scholars* that have got our Learning upon *Earth*, and could never ſo much as reach the Clouds, when we meet with a Cramp Word we pull it to peices, as I did *Solumnia*, and found it to be as I Interpreted it, and as all plain Scholars would ha' done from the *Latin*: But, a-lack-a-day, that was an Elevated Word, us'd by the People in the Moon. So it ſeems, there ſignifies *South*; I beg his Worſhips Pardon with all my Spirit, I never was in the *World in the Moon* in all my Born Days; nor do I Love the Company or Writings of *Lunaticks*, and therefore ſhall ha' done with him, with one Requeſt or two.

That he will be Pleas'd to give us a little further Account of the *Military Right of keeping the Peace*. And that he will be Graciouſly Pleated, ſince he Boaſts of his Reading of Books, to let us know what his old Fellows ſay on that Head, for mine know nothing of that Buſineſs.

And laſtly, That for the future, when he ſhall be Pleas'd to Write of the *Cuſtoms* and *Laws* of Nations and People, that he will be Graciouſly Pleaſed to tell us what People he means, that I may not run any more into Miſtakes, and think he means the People of *England*, when he means the *Man in the Moon*.

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